

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02409 101423Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /064 W

----- 075091

R 101333Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9341

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2409

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PDIP, PINS, FI, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGED CIA OPERATIVES AT EMBASSY HELSINKI NAMED
IN PRESS

REF: STOCKHOLM 5328

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: GEORGE LENNOX, SAME BRITISH FREE LANCE JOURNALIST WHO PARTICIPATED IN EX-CIA AGENT PHILIP AGEE'S ACCUSATIONS OF CIA ACTIVITY IN SWEDEN (REFTEL), SPENT LAST WEEK IN FINLAND TRYING TO SELL SIMILAR STORY OF CIA ACTIVITY IN FINLAND TO FINNISH MEDIA. FRUSTRATED IN HIS EFFORTS TO GET STORY ON TV LENNOX FINALLY GAVE HIS ACCUSATIONS TO COMMUNIST'S LEADING DAILY, KANSAN UUTISET (KU), WHICH RAN THREE ARTICLES NOVEMBER 7-9. KU NAMED TWELVE EMBASSY EMPLOYEES (AND FORMER EMPLOYEES) IN SATURDAY EDITION AND ON SUNDAY FOLLOWED UP WITH ARTICLE ON LENNOX/AGEE "METHOD" (BASICALLY NAMING FSR'S IN FOREIGN SERVICE LIST). END SUMMARY.

2. LENNOX'S STORY FIRST BROKE IN SWEDEN'S DAGENS NYHETER (DN) AS WELL AS IN SMALL FINNISH PROVINCIAL PAPER VASABLADET ON NOVEMBER 5. DN'S HELSINKI
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 02409 101423Z

CORRESPONDENT, TOR HOGNAS REPORTED THAT LENNOX WAS

IN HELSINKI TO VERIFY A LIST OF CIA AGENTS IN FINLAND HE HAD PUT TOGETHER BEFORE LEAVING STOCKHOLM. HOGNAS REPORTED LENNOX HAD PHOTOGRAPHED THE "MOST IMPORTANT" CIA OPERATIVES AMONG THE SEVEN DIPLOMATS AND SIX NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HE HAD IDENTIFIED AT US EMBASSY. ACCORDING TO HOGNAS FINNISH RADIO/TV WAS INTERESTED IN LENNOX'S STORY AND WAS TO LET HIM KNOW THAT DAY WHETHER PROGRAM WOULD BE BROADCAST.

3. NO PROGRAM WAS BROADCAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT BUT ON THURSDAY (NOVEMBER 6) TWO MAJOR FINNISH NEWSPAPERS PICKED UP STORY. HELSINKI'S INDEPENDENT SWEDISH-LANGUAGE HUFVUDSTADSBLADET NOTED STORY IN VASABLADET AND SAID IT HAD LEARNED FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FINNISH BROADCASTING COMPANY (FBC) THAT LENNOX'S CHARGED WOULD NOT BE AIRED ON FINNISH TELEVISION. HUFVUDSTADSBLADET EXPLAINED THAT LENNOX HAD OFFERED HSI MATERIAL TO TV-2 CURRENT EVENTS PROGRAM "TASAVALLASSA TAPAHTUU" (IT'S HAPPENING IN THE REPUBLIC) BUT THAT FBC DIRECTOR GENERAL ERKKI RAATIKAINEN AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR PEKKA SILVOLA HAD TURNED DOWN PROPOSAL. PAPER WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT FBC DECISION WAS "OBVIOUS", SINCE FBC WOULD HARDLY PARTICIPATE IN EXPOSING KGB AGENTS IN SOVIET EMBASSY. AMERICAN EMBASSY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWING ROUTINE WORLDWIDE POLICY OF NO COMMENT BUT OTHERWISE TO BE TAKING THE "EXPOSURE" CALMLY. CONSERVATIVE TAMPERE DAILY AAMULEHTI CARRIED FINNISH TRANSLATION OF HOGNAS ARTICLE AND BRIEF REPORT OF FBC "THUMBS DOWN."

4. HAVING FAILED TO GET EITHER TV OR NON-COMMUNIST PRESS TO PUBLISH HSI ALLEGATIONS LENNOX GAVE HIS MATERIAL TO COMMUNIST'S HELSINKI DAILY KANSAN UUTISET. KU RAN ITS FIRST STORY ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6 IDENTIFYING CIA'S STATION CHIEF AS FIRST SECRETARY WILLIAM C. SIMENSON CITING US "COUNTERSPY" NEWSPAPER AS LENNOX'S SOURCE. KU ALSO REPORTED LENNOX'S CLAIM THAT CIA HAS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN HELSINKI SPECIALIZING IN LABOR AND TRADE UNION AFFAIRS, NAMING EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY ALDEN H. IRONS.

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PAGE 03 HELSIN 02409 101423Z

5. ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, KU PUBLISHED 12 OF LENNOX'S 13 NAMES. IN ADDITION TO SIMENSON AND IRONS DIPLOMATS NAMED WERE ROBERT SIMPSON, JEROME STENGER, RICHARD KNOWLES AND JUHA MERIKOSKI. NON-DIPLOMATS NAMED WERE STEPHAN PALMERI, THOMAS O'NEIL, GERALDINE MOSHER, RICHARD TAYLOR, ANDREW MICKENS AND RICHARD DUNCAN (LAST TWO ARE NO LONGER IN HELSINKI). KU STATES

THAT LENNOX IS NOT CERTAIN OF CIA CONNECTION OF THIRTEENTH INDIVIDUAL -- WORKING OUTSIDE EMBASSY -- WHO IS NOT NAMED, BUT IDENTIFIED AS FORMER EMPLOYEE OF RADIO FREE EUROPE.

6. SAME KU STORY SAYS THAT AFTER HELSINKI'S LARGEST MORNING AND EVENING PAPERS TOLD LENNOX THEY WEREN'T INTERESTED IN HIS STORY, LENNOX TURNED TO TV-2'S "TASAVALLASSA TAPAHTUU". HIS MATERIAL WAS ACCEPTED AND PLANS WERE MADE FOR HIM TO BE INTERVIEWED BY PROGRAM'S MATTI KARHU (WHOSE SLANTED COVERAGE OF CIA WAS MAJOR REASON FOR OFFICIAL EMBASSY PROTEST TO FINNISH GOVT A MONTH AGO). KU SAYS PROGRAM'S PLANS WERE KILLED BY ORDER OF TV-2 DIRECTOR PERTTI PALOHEIMO WHO CONSULTED WITH FBC MANAGING DIRECTOR RAATIKAINEN BEFORE TAKING ACTION. KU, OF COURSE, SCREAMS ABOUT CENSORSHIP IN ITS HEADLINE AND ASCRIBES IT TO POWER OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND CIA. KU ALSO NOTES IT HAS INFORMATION INDICATING FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND SECURITY POLICE MAY HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN CENSORING THE STORY.

7. FINALD STORY, TO DATE, APPEARED IN KU SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9 COMPLETE WITH PHOTOSTATS FROM FOREIGN SERVICE LIST AND BIOGRAPHIC REGISTER. IT DEALS ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH LENNOX'S METHOD, WHICH HE SAYS WAS DEVELOPED BY JOHN MARKS AND MARTIN HOFFMAN. AFTER DESCRIBING KEY NOTATIONS IN LIST AND PATTERNS TO LOOK FOR IN REGISTER STORY GOES ON TO SAY CIA EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE UP TO 20 LOCAL AGENTS ON THEIR PAYROLL.

8. EMBASSY'S CONSISTENT RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 HELSIN 02409 101423Z

BEEN NO COMMENT. WITH ALLEGATIONS LARGELY CONFINED TO COMMUNIST PRESS WE TRUST AFFAIR WILL BE AS QUICKLY FORGOTTEN AS KU'S ALLEGATIONS A YEAR AGO BASED ON EAST GERMAN "WHO'S WHO IN THE CIA". AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN02409
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750390-0676
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751159/aaaacbbo.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STOCKHOLM 5328
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED CIA OPERATIVES AT EMBASSY HELSINKI NAMED IN PRESS
TAGS: PINR, PDIP, PINS, FI, US, CIA, (LENNOX, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006